

Washington hosts Fatherhood Conference for Father's Day

By Rob Huffman, DCS Community Relations Unit

Late in the summer of 1998, Gov. Gary Locke's staff approached the Division of Child Support about putting on the first Washington State Fatherhood Conference. The DCS Community Relations Unit took the challenge, knowing they could count on their fellow state employees to help.

Their efforts resulted in the very successful "Connecting Fathers, Families and Communities: Dads Make a Difference" conference held June 16-18 at Green River Community College in Auburn.

Because this was the first event of its kind in our state, input was needed from many different perspectives. A steering committee included staff from the Economic Services Administration, the Medical Assistance Administration, the ESA State Tribal Relations Unit, the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, the Department of Health, several fathers' advocacy groups and others.

The committee worked diligently to ensure appropriate information was taken into consideration and all stakeholders had sufficient input. They reviewed relevant research, held focus groups with fathers, reviewed other states' fatherhood initiatives, and conducted a survey of service providers, community- and faith-based organizations.

The information was clear. Forty percent of children today live in homes without the biological father present. The absence of fathers, whether physical or psychological, has profound consequences for children.

Children who grow up without their fathers are substantially more likely to have

troubles in school, with law enforcement, drugs and alcohol, and interpersonal relationships.

These children frequently carry the effects of their unmet needs into adult life and begin the cycle again with their own children.

By improving services to fathers, we can help break this cycle. When we help a father, we do not just help him, but also his children.

When a man has the services and resources he needs, he can be a much more effective father. As a result, the children of our state will be much more likely to grow into healthy adults who will, in turn, help their own children.

This embodies the mission of the Department of Social and Health Services.

The conference became a vehicle to link and empower direct service providers, staff from government agencies, community- and faith-based organizations, as well as fathers themselves.

Numerous nationally-known authorities shared their expertise. In addition, 32 workshops were held in which representatives from throughout the state and nation talked about their programs serving fathers.

The first two days, over 325 attendees had the opportunity to build new relationships and gain substantial knowledge. On the third day, everyone went to work. Facilitated roundtable



While attending part of the recent conference on fatherhood, Raji Martineau had a chance to meet Secretary Lyle Quasim. Martineau is the son of Lenore Lawrence of Medical Assistance Administration. Lenore was a member of the steering committee for the state's first conference on fatherhood.

discussions allowed participants to brainstorm and refine ideas about how they could return to their communities and implement the strategies they had discovered.

Also on the last day, children from the Auburn School District read essays they had written during a conference-sponsored contest entitled "What My Father Means to Me."

A closing ceremony featuring Native American children dancers and drummers capped the event. In addition to performing, the children engaged the entire audience in a friendship dance.

The conference, rated a 4.38 out of 5.00 on overall evaluations, was an excellent opportunity to show *Dads Make a Difference!*

Staff teamwork intercedes to help child through a difficult situation

Editor's note: Social workers from Children's Administration assisted staff from the Community Services Office (CSO) with a very difficult situation recently in the co-located Aberdeen Office. In the process, a child was removed from an abusive parent and the staff involved were provided with an opportunity to better understand the role they each have in providing services to DSHS clients. Bobbie Compton, CSO building manager in Aberdeen, shared the following story.

A woman came to the Aberdeen CSO office with a three-year-old child. The woman was out of control, intoxicated, belligerent and angry.

She left her child alone in the waiting room when she went to talk to a financial worker.

She opened the door so fast and hard that it hit the child in the face and she did not seem to notice. She also slapped the child in front of staff and was verbally abusive to the crying child. Several staff from the CSO tried to calm her down to no avail.

The CSO staff finally decided to call Children's Protective Services (CPS). Cliff Burden and Becky Neal (CPS social workers) responded to the call.

Before arriving at the CSO office (one

(Continued on page 5)

Inside

Over 400 adoptions later, she's retiring **2**

This quality work has changed a man's life **3**

Staff network to improve service **5**

Helping to make Soul Fest '99 a success **6**

Secretary's
Lcorner
by Lyle Quasim



Words about our work

Employees, clients, and the public share thoughts on the work we do

Send your thoughts and/or letters from clients to Secretary Lyle Quasim, attention: Letters to The News Connection, P.O. Box (Mailstop) 45010, Olympia WA 98504; via e-mail Quasil@dshs.wa.gov



Several months ago I shared with you that my mother taught me at a young age the importance of volunteering, giving your time and energy to your community. Now I want to talk with you about giving your money.

We all cringe when someone asks us for money. We work hard for it and a large portion of our paychecks are already committed to house payments, grocery bills, car payments, new shoes for the kids...you know the list.

But I am going to ask you for money, money for the Combined Fund Drive (CFD). Each year, state employees are given the opportunity to open their wallets and their hearts to over 1,500 charities in communities across the state and throughout the world.

We in government know there are numerous publicly-funded programs to aid people in need. But we also know that all too often those programs do not cover all the needs. That's where charities come into the picture.

Charities run that clothing program that makes sure kids have new clothes for the first day of school and women returning to the workforce can dress professionally. They run the food bank that is desperately needed when the food stamps run out before the end of the month. And they run the recreational programs that help young people develop into responsible, caring adults.

Last year the CFD campaign had over 24,000 givers who donated over \$3.7 million. Over the last 12 years, state employees have contributed more than \$32 million.

I am always amazed at the generosity of DSHS employees. You work hard at your jobs to help those who are vulnerable or in need. Many of you also give of your personal time as foster parents, soccer coaches, helpers in the local food banks. Over the years you have extended that generosity to include financial giving through annual payroll deductions.

Again this year, I encourage you to support the charities that are working to make a difference in the lives of people in Washington and beyond. Often we serve the same people. And those people need both of us.

Lyle Quasim

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to a case worker with the Division of Children and Family Services in Region 6. The case worker asked that her name be withheld. She shared that the letter-writer is a mother with alcoholism who fought angrily and unsuccessfully against losing her parental rights.

Dear Caseworker,

I am writing you today to tell you what I had hoped to say in person.

For several years now I have owed you an apology and a thank you.

The apology is for the ill-will I held against you, the hurtful things I said about you, and the poor way I

treated you. I am sorry for any hurt or discomfort I may have caused you. ...I'm hoping this simple apology will help you to remember your work is needed, even when it doesn't seem to be appreciated by all concerned.

That brings me to the "Thank you" I spoke of before. I'm not sure you will remember me, but I'm sure you remember my beautiful boys...and their awesome mom (now)... I want to thank you for doing your job and helping to bring the three of them together, (so) that my

boys can have the life they need and deserve.

I have needed to let go of my misplaced, mis-directed anger and accept my personal responsibility in the loss of my parental rights. (God-given privileges, actually!) This is a step in that process of me getting on with the rest of my life, and growing in my clean and sober Christian path I am following.

Thank you for "hearing" me out.

God bless you and your work.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld

DSHS golfers drive toward Combined Fund Drive contribution in Second Annual Secretary's Golf Tournament

More than 225 golfers recently enjoyed a fun, albeit rainy, day at the Second Annual DSHS Secretary's Combined Fund Drive Golf Tournament at the Capitol City Golf Course in Olympia. The \$7,500 raised at the tournament and accompanying silent auction benefitted the State Employees Combined Fund Drive. Last year the tournament raised nearly \$6,500 for the CFD.

The Secretary's Combined Fund Drive Golf Tournament Committee members included Emilio Vela, Kevin Kernan, Tom Pennella, Michael Lumsden, Ed Hidano, Wes Hamilton, Mike Smith, Sandra Mena, Roxanne Lowe, Melissa Clary, Kevin Krueger, Geoff Hartford, Mark Johnson, Manning Pellanda, and Jack Morris.

- 2nd Annual DSHS Secretary's Golf Tournament Results**
- 1st Place Team** - Michael D. Lazares, Pat Park, Mike Struss, and John Williams
- 2nd Place Team**-Mike Hansen, Lyle Van Boeyen, Glen McKay, and James Judge
- 3rd Place Team**-Merrill Russell, Ian Brown, Keith Deyoe, and Doug Dow
- 4th Place Team**-Sandra Mena, Paul Mena, Andy Muir, and Rob Coberly
- 5th Place Team**-Cory Benton, Bob Franzen, Kent Haneman, and Satoshi Ichita
- Last Place Team** (won golf lessons)-Paul Mena, Jr., Debra Mena, Enedina Mena, and Nora Jewett
- Worst Golfer**-Dave Black
- Longest Drive, Men**-Glen Wells and Duane Heier
- Longest Drive, Women**-Patty Seales and Steph Southbloom
- Closest to the Pin, Men**-Mike Tornquist, Fred Beyers, Jim Gorman, and Keith Deyoe
- Closest to the Pin, Women**-Lori Tornquist and Steph Southbloom

The Division of Fraud Investigations team captured first place. Team members were Mike Struss, Michael Lazarnes, (Secretary Quasim), Pat Park, and John Williams.



At 75, Mary's ready for new challenges



Mary DeBoever, a social worker in the Vancouver Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) office, recently retired after 32 years. In her career, Mary helped more than 400 children find homes by facilitating their adoptions. Many in the community as well as DCFS staff, refer to her as "Saint Mary." At the age of 75, Mary was quoted as saying, "It's time to step back and find another passion to pursue." Mary was one of the original workers in the Child Protective Services unit in Vancouver. She has been a wonderful social worker who exemplified compassion for troubled parents, dedication to permanency planning, and a focus on the best interests of kids.

Mary DeBoever has helped more than 400 children find permanent homes, including those surrounding her. (From left) Jonah Lewis, 6; Martha Kraft, 26; Ann Marie Dean, infant; Khloe Lewis, 3; and Jamin Lewis, 8.

Sharing our successes and commitment to reaching beyond the expected to the excellent

Quality IN DSHS

Quality projects enhance achievement of our mission

PROJECTS SUPPORT CLIENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

All quality improvement projects support some aspect of the department’s mission and strategic goals. For example, a number of projects seek ways to ensure or improve client health and safety. These two words are featured prominently in the department’s mission statement: “We will help people achieve **safe**, self-sufficient, **healthy** and secure lives.”

Client health and safety have always been an essential part of our business because we are the place so many people turn to when they are feeling vulnerable and need help. Knowing this, we work hard (day and night) to establish and implement quality standards and provide ready access to services. In fact, Secretary Quasim has a contract with his boss, Gov. Gary Locke, that includes goals for client health and safety.

In this issue of *The NewsConnection*, you will read about a number of projects that directly improve the health and safety of our clients. Some of these projects are still in process. If you look back through previous issues of *The NewsConnection*, you will see many other projects that address this important area of our work. Together, these projects serve as a reminder that quality improvement supports our *entire mission*.



Left to right - Cammy Hart-Anderson (County Alcohol and Other Drugs CAOD), Sue Welch (CA), CA Assistant Secretary Rosie Oreskovich, Barbara Meyers (CA), (Secretary Lyle Quasim), Dick Jones (DASA), Deborah Brown (was with Pacific Treatment Alternatives during project development and is now with CA), and Marti Bishop (CAOD).

Results

- 437 substance abuse assessments completed, approximately 33% more than the average completed in other counties
- Length of time to complete assessments reduced from three months to two weeks
- 263 parents engaged in treatment
- Increased social worker skills in identifying substance abuse in families, resulting in improved child safety through speedier case planning
- Improved parenting abilities which reduces length of time for children to be in out of home placement

Team members: Barbara Meyers, Sue Welch, Dick Jones, Cammy Hart-Anderson, Marty Bishop, Deborah Brown, Diane Lowry.

Project: SAFE (DASA/CPS COLLABORATION)

As many as 75 percent of parents referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) have problems with substance abuse, which frequently interferes with their ability to adequately parent. The 1995 Legislature allocated funds for Children’s Administration and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) to work together to improve chemical dependency services for families.

The Snohomish County Alcohol and Other Drugs (SCAOD) and four Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) offices developed project SAFE, Substance Abuse Family Evaluation. As part of the effort to improve collaboration and training, a chemical dependency outreach worker is available in each office one day per week to assist social workers in identifying substance abuse issues within families.

Project: EAST KING COUNTY CHILD ABUSE INITIATIVE

While certain professionals are required by law to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect, many do not have a clear understanding of how and what to report, leaving children at risk of abuse and neglect.

A team of staff from the King East Office, Division of Children and Family Services, and from the Children’s Response Center developed an initiative, with funding from *Partners for a Healthy Community*.

The team analyzed source data regarding referrals to Child Protective Service (CPS) in previous years and concluded that health care professionals were underreporting, and that educators had the most questions about and difficulty with reporting. These groups were prioritized for training.

The team developed a training curriculum, based on survey data, which covered incidence and prevalence of child abuse, common definitions, indicators and recognition of abuse and neglect, how to make a

(Continued on page 4)

For one man, quality work meant the difference in his quality of life

By Sharon Anderson, Supervisor
Pasco Home and Community Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) received the referral; we found him in a small trailer by the Fairgrounds. He had once roamed the West as a horse trainer. Now an old man, people were taking advantage of him, so we were called in.

We found a confused, dilapidated, sick old man. He had fallen and wouldn’t go to the doctor. His trailer was filthy, but inside were all his worldly possessions. In his tattered, empty wallet, he had just one I.D.: Canadian Horse Racing Trainer/Owner from the 1980s.

Everyone wanted something done and the Fair Board wanted to evict him. “What are you going to do for this man?” they demanded.

We put together a team. A case manager from the Area Agency on Aging helped clean up several open wounds on his legs and took him to the emergency room. The Crisis Response team from the local mental health agency arranged a motel room and food he would not have

to cook. Various staff in Home and Community Services followed up on his medical care, bought fresh clothing for him at Goodwill, and located an Adult Family Home.

We began our journey with this man in 1997. In the ensuing two years, 11 different Home and Community Services staff have been involved, including financial and social services staff, program managers, and a secretary.

Months of work with Immigration and Naturalization Services unearthed a Canadian Old Age Pension, but never clarified his citizenship, except that he was born in England. Financial Services staff found him eligible for COPES services after the lump sum from the Canadian government ran out.

This story has a happy ending. Once alone and in desperate circumstances, this man now lives with people who love and care for him. A little confused but still independent, he enjoys taking long walks almost daily.

Fulfilling our mission through quality work

report, how CPS responds, and agency and community resources.

Training began in late 1997 and continued through 1998. Referral source data was collected, along with participant evaluation forms, to determine the effectiveness of the training.

Results

- 242 health care professionals and 174 educators trained in recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Increase in referrals to CPS (thereby improving child safety) – from health care professionals, 30 percent; from educators, 21 percent.
- Increase in awareness, skill and comfort in reporting.

Health Care Professionals:

- 81 percent improved ability to recognize indicators of maltreatment.
- 100 percent increased knowledge of community resources.
- 89 percent are more able to make a report to CPS.
- 44 percent are more likely to intervene when abuse is suspected.

Educators:

- 94 percent improved ability to recognize indicators of abuse.
- 98 percent increased knowledge of community resources.
- 90 percent are more likely to intervene when child abuse is suspected.

Team members: Sheree Andrews, Naomi Childs, Paula Nordby, Shirley Forsman, Chris Trujillo, Debbie Doane, Colleen Hinton.



Team Members: (From left, back row) Naomi Childs, Chris Trujillo, Shirley Forsman; (front row) Colleen Hinton, and Debbie Doane.

conducted unless re-inspections at the 12-month standard are current. The project team is proud to report that effective June 30 all 247 Adult Family Homes in their area have been inspected within the 12-month period. The more streamlined work processes have saved about 15 minutes per licenser per day. The more frequent re-inspections support resident safety, protection, and quality of care.

Team members: Mary Bradley, Mary Brown, and Mary Wood.

Project: “CLUSTER CARE” ENHANCES HOME-CARE FOR VULNERABLE CLIENTS

Adults and seniors with disabilities prefer to live in their own homes whenever possible. Personal care services can enable them to remain in their homes a lot longer these days, but the help has to be scheduled in advance for specific blocks of time. If someone has a sudden need for care outside the scheduled time period (e.g. see a doctor, have assistance in the bathroom, get extra care because of an illness), traditional home care services are not always able to respond.



Cynthia Woodbury, Services supervisor with Sunrise Home Care, visits with a client.

A team composed of staff from Aging and Adult Services, Snohomish Area Agency on Aging, Everett Housing Authority, and Sunrise Home Care decided to try providing personal care services a whole new way. The project tested a “cluster care” model, involving a team of home care aides who serve a group of clients living in close proximity to each other.

At the Everett Housing Authority’s Broadway Plaza facility, a pilot was launched on March 1. Sunrise Home Care assigned five aides to work with 14 residents. The aides are on site seven days a week, 10 hours a day (five hours on weekends).

Now, if a client falls, they have someone to call for help who is just minutes away. There is no need to postpone a trip to the doctor until the scheduled “day” for home care – because transportation can be arranged whenever it is needed. Clients who were trying to take care of certain tasks on their aide’s “days off” can now get help and avoid risky activities.

This project has increased teamwork at all levels, increased service efficiency, postponed two nursing home placements, eliminated aide turn-over, and most important of all, increased client access to care. The project significantly supports client health and safety.

Team Members: Aging and Adult Services: Carol Wozniak, Ron Kerber, Bea Rector, James Mead. **Snohomish County Long Term Care and Aging (AAA):** Jerry Fireman, Ellen Schufreider, Catherine Wu, Mike Manley. **Sunrise Home Care Agency:** Sharon Bowers, Cindy Woodbury, and the team of five homecare workers. **Everett Housing Authority, Broadway Plaza:** Kathy Spellhaug, Nancy Gustafson, Sharon Bosma.

Project: ENHANCED OVERSIGHT SUPPORTS QUALITY CARE IN ADULT FAMILY HOMES

Adult Family Homes are just one of several types of long-term care facilities licensed and monitored by the Aging and Adult Services Administration, Residential Care Services Division (RCS). These homes serve adults and seniors with disabilities.

The law mandates a re-inspection every 18 months, but staff in AASA decided that this standard could be improved upon in the interests of both the client and the provider. A more frequent oversight schedule would give providers feedback sooner, and also keep closer watch on the care of very vulnerable clients.

RCS licensers in the Lynnwood area (North King/South Snohomish) established a project team to streamline their work processes, with the goal of conducting re-inspections every 12 months instead of every 18 months.

Certain duties, like data entry and forms management, were transferred to an administrative assistant; staff meeting time was cut in half; ancillary work not directly related to re-licensing was eliminated or given a lower priority. For example, inspections of new homes are no longer



Team Members: (From left) Estelle Sylvester, Connie Rockstad, Mary Wood, Brenda Mooney, Carri Anderson, and JoAnne Pullen.

Two DSHS TEAMS EARN GOVERNOR’S AWARD

Two DSHS quality teams were recently recognized with the Governor's Quality Improvement Award. Receiving this honor were the LifeBook Project, Children's Administration (featured in the May edition of *The NewsConnection*), and the Improving Medication Distribution at Western State Hospital Team (featured in June). Congratulations!



Sharing our successes and commitment to reaching beyond the expected to the excellent

Each of the eight administrations has steering committees to assist in leading the department's efforts to continue providing quality services to the residents of the state of Washington. For more information on the quality improvement activities occurring throughout the department, contact Cheryl Stephani, quality consultant, at (360) 902-7783 or e-mail at stephcs@dshs.wa.gov or Solomon Uwadiale, quality coordinator, at (360) 902-7649 or e-mail uwadism@dshs.wa.gov. Please visit the DSHS Intranet Quality Improvement site at [intra.dshs.wa.gov/quality improvement](http://intra.dshs.wa.gov/quality%20improvement) for ongoing updates of plans, successes, and accomplishments.

Staff from throughout state government network to improve how they serve common clients

By Jane Roberts, DCS Constituent Relations Unit

DSHS is a large organization that can seem overwhelming to many people. The Constituent/Client/Community Relations Units in many of the administrations provide a valuable link in helping to resolve issues faced by the families we serve.

At the annual luncheon hosted by the Division of Child Support (DCS) Community Relations Unit on Aug. 4, representatives from throughout DSHS joined staff from the Attorney General's Office to network on common concerns.

"The ability to meet with others face to face helps us to work together," said Iris Green of the Community Services Division (CSD) Constituent Relations Unit. "It is important to be able talk with each other to discuss how we can help each other and those we serve. This opportunity is not easy to come by during the regular workday."

DSHS is an agency of change, and many changes have occurred during the last two years within the Economic Services Administration (ESA) with the introduction of WorkFirst.

The needs of the families served by CSD have remained



Staff who work on the front-line of dealing with people's frustrations with state government met recently to share common concerns and successful ways of serving shared clients.

constant and sometimes are immediate. Meeting these families' needs often takes the resources of several parts of the agency and referrals to outside resources.

On occasion, the families turn to Gov. Gary Locke, Attorney General Christine Gregoire, Secretary Lyle Quasim, their legislators, or various agency administration and division directors for help. DSHS staff who work together to resolve these

requests for assistance have recognized how important it is to think of each other as partners, working together to serve our clients. Areas represented at this year's luncheon were Secretary Quasim's Office, Economic Ser-

Region 4 CSD co-sponsors Soul Fest '99

By Frances Carr, Public/Community Relations Manager, Region 4 Community Services Division

On July 30-Aug. 1, Region 4 Community Services Division (CSD) co-sponsored and participated in the Annual Central Area's "Soul Fest 99" and John Stanford Unity Parade.

Region 4 CSD had an informational booth at Soul Fest '99, which was held at the Rainier Playfield. A bright banner heralded the statement "DSHS—Region 4 CSD—Making A Difference In Our Community."

Volunteer staff from the region's CSOs participated, creating a collaborative team approach.

Regional Administrator Phyllis Lowe encouraged CSD participation in this annual community event as it offered a wonderful opportunity for the division to provide a different avenue of disseminating information to the community, while also demonstrating visible community support. The Rainier CSO, under the leadership of Tom Haines, administrator, Vanessa Gaston, deputy administrator, and Jowhara Shabazz, community resource program manager, are to be applauded for coordinating the event.

Soul Fest '99 was a family centered event. Several thousand individuals visited the DSHS information booth, which included brochures from WorkFirst, Food Stamps, (EBT) Electronic Benefits Training to Earned Income Tax Credits. Gaston reported that major questions centered on child care and family planning.

Other sponsors of Soul Fest '99: The Seattle Medium Newspaper Group, The Z-Twins Radio Stations, Chris Bennett Enterprises Charities, Seattle Mariners, SeaFirst Bank, Pepsi, GTE Wireless & Services Corporations, The City of Seattle, United Parcel Service and Washington State Lottery.

vices Administration Constituent Services, DSHS Community Relations, State Tribal Relations Unit, the Division of Children and Family Services, the Community Services Division, WorkFirst, and the Attorney General's Office.

Angela Gregg, the Thurston County family court facilitator, presented information about the services that she provides.

A portion of Gregg's salary has been funded from federal funds DCS received to assist with parenting and child access and visitation projects. Facilitators can help parents access the court system to establish, modify, or enforce child custody and visitation orders.

Facilitators can assist with completing forms for family law cases, according to Gregg, and can explain court protocol and procedures. There are 17 counties with family law facilitators.

Suggestions have already been submitted for next year's event on how to build upon the growing partnerships.

Unpleasant incident helps Aberdeen staff learn of each others' responsibilities

(Continued from page 1)

floor down from the CPS office in the same building), Burden and Neal searched the computer system and found that the woman had been under investigation for other abusive incidents to this child in the past. She had left the area without cooperating with CPS and serious risk to this child continued to exist.

A call was made to law enforcement who responded to assist with placing this child in protective custody.

When Burden and Neal arrived they talked to the mother in a calm fashion, explaining consequences for her behavior, what was going to happen (that law enforcement would arrive shortly and probably take the child into protective custody) and what she needed to do. They spoke to her privately and advised her that cooperating and sobering up was in her best interests. When law enforcement officers arrived, the woman submitted to a sobriety test and failed.

The child was taken into protective custody and placed in a temporary foster home and the

woman was advised not to drive until she had sobered up.

Neal followed up with the mother to assure that she was safe, offered support and discouraged her from driving away in her car until sober. Neal, along with the police, encouraged her to go to a nearby restaurant to sober up.

Meanwhile, Burden noticed several CSO staff seemed distressed; some were crying. With approval from Liz Dalton, the administrator, he offered to spend time with staff to explain what happened and the role and work that is done by CPS.

The immediate result of the response to this situation is that this child was provided a safe haven and her mother was given an opportunity to work with agency services.

Additionally, the CSO administration and Burden saw this as an opportunity to bring two DSHS divisions and law enforcement together as they work to serve the families and children in this community.

The child has since been placed with a responsible relative.

Diversity Calendar

Throughout the year, *The News Connection* features special dates, provided by the Division of Access and Equal Opportunity. If you have a date you would like included in the calendar, contact Patte King at KingPL2@dshs.wa.gov. Not all dates can be included because of length constraints.

SEPTEMBER

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

- 6 Labor Day
- Jane Addams' Birthday
- 10 Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset
- 12 Grandparents' Day
- 15 Japan: Respect for Aged Day
- 16 Mexico: Independence Day
- 17 U.S. Constitution Day
- 19 International Day of Peace
- 23 1st Day of Autumn
- 24 U.S. Indian Day
- 28 Confucius' Birthday

OCTOBER

NATIONAL DISABILITIES MONTH

- 2 Ghandi's Birthday
- 6 US: German American Day
- 11 Columbus Day
- Canadian Thanksgiving
- Mohammed's Birthday
- 15 National White Cane Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 Black Poetry Day
- 18 Jamaica Heroes Day
- 24 United Nations Day
- 26 International Red Cross Day
- 27 International Creole Day
- 28 Greek National Day
- 31 Halloween